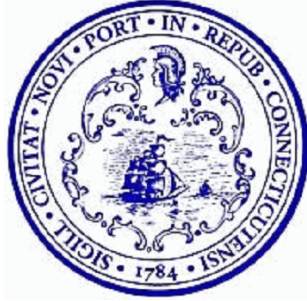


City of New Haven

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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 17, 2025

6:00 PM

Meeting can be viewed on Board of Alders YouTube.

Aldermanic Chamber

City Services and Environmental Policy

(Board of Alders Notice New Haven) The City Services and Environmental Policy Committee of the Board of Alders will meet “in-person” on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Alders Chamber located at 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor, New Haven, Connecticut, to hear and act on the following items:

- 1) [LM-2025-0324](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS REQUESTING THE DESIGNATION OF GIRARD AVENUE BETWEEN STUYVESANT AVENUE AND LEY STREET A RESIDENTIAL PARKING ZONE.
- 2) [LM-2025-0361](#) ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF A MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN AND GRANICUS FOR ITS SMARTGOV LICENSING, PERMITTING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT SOFTWARE.
- 3) [LM-2025-0315](#) RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AROUND THE NEW HAVEN GREEN.
- 4) [LM-2025-0306](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING SOLAR POWER PURCHASE AND LEASE AGREEMENTS.

and to hear the following workshops:

-- WORKSHOP OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM VEO, THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, TRAFFIC, & PARKING, AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY REGARDING RESIDENT COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE ROLLOUT OF THE ELECTRIC SCOOTERS.

Per Order: Hon. Anna M. Festa, Chair

Attest: Hon. Michael Smart, City/Town Clerk

These items are on file and available in the Office of Legislative Services, City Hall, 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor, New Haven, Connecticut 06510.

For accessibility related accommodations, please call (203) 946 7651 (V) or (203) 946 8582 (TTY/TDD).

Public comment/testimony may also be submitted via email to publictestimony@newhavenct.gov before 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

This meeting may be viewed on the New Haven Board of Alders YouTube page.

Minutes

Alder Anna M. Festa, Chair, called the public hearing to order at 6:07 p.m. Present were Alders Anna M. Festa, Chair, Kampton Singh, Vice-chair, Amy Marx, Kiana Flores, Caroline Tanbee Smith, and Gary Hogan.

Non-committee members in attendance were Alders Frank R. Redente Jr.

1. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS REQUESTING THE DESIGNATION OF GIRARD AVENUE BETWEEN STUYVESANT AVENUE AND LEY STREET A RESIDENTIAL PARKING ZONE.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters: Viven Hunnicutt, 44 Girard Avenue

Ms. Hunnicutt discussed how they were advised at one of the meetings with Tweed they were advised the Residential Parking Zone would be extended.

In response to Alder Festa, Ms. Hunnicutt reviewed some of the concerns with people parking on Girard Avenue, who are flying out of Tweed including blocking access for emergency vehicles, asking residents to use their bathrooms, and urinating in the bushes among other things issues.

Zelema Harris, 487 Townsend Avenue, spoke in support of this Residential Parking Zone.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 1, seconded by Alder Amy Marx. Alder Kampton Singh moved to amend item # 1 to change "between Stuyvesant Avenue and Ley Street" to "between Burr Street and Townsend Avenue," seconded by Alder Amy Marx. All the alders spoke in favor of the amendment, and motion to amend was unanimously approved. All the alders spoke in favor of the item, as amended. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed, as amended.

2. ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF A MULTI YEAR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN AND GRANICUS FOR ITS SMARTGOV LICENSING, PERMITTING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT SOFTWARE.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters: Rebecca Bombero, Deputy Chief Administrator

DCA Bombero presented this item and explained how this program would be used by the Health Department for licensing and enforcement. They are hoping to be able to start using

the program in March/April 2026 in time for the license renewals.

In response to Alder Festa, DCA Bombero reviewed how this contract is only multi-year because it straddles the city's fiscal year.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, DCA Bombero reviewed how they talked with other cities including two cities in Connecticut that use the Granicus. Discussed how twenty-six (26) criteria were used to select the software provider, as well as feedback from city staff that will be using the software.

In response to Alder Marx, DCA Bombero spoke about how this will allow the Health Department to consolidate programs by using this software. Reviewed how this software is more intuitive [user friendly] than the current software the city uses.

In response to Alder Singh, DCA Bombero reviewed how this will replace CitySquared, but payments will still be made through a third party. Users will be able to add the items to their Granicus cart and will be transferred to the third party to process their payment once they are ready to checkout.

In response to Alder Hogan, DCA Bombero talked about how user-friendly Granicus is. Reports can be made by users without reaching out to the vendor and having to pay a fee.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, DCA Bombero described how it will be a lot more user-friendly than the current software. Discussed how fields for residents will autofill data, and users will be able to keep the same license number, which will make this program easier to use.

In response to Alder Festa, DCA Bombero reviewed how a dashboard change order for the current program would cost \$4,500, and this change could be made by the users without a fee using the Granicus program.

COMMITTEE ACTION

No committee action.

3. RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AROUND THE NEW HAVEN GREEN.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters: Justin McCarthy, 569 Orange Street;
Dawn Henning, Assistant City Engineer; and
Rebecca Bombero, Deputy Chief Administrator

CAO McCarthy, Assistant City Engineer Henning, and DCA Bombero reviewed how this \$4

million grant to the city for the New Haven Green Area Roadways Safety Improvements Project on behalf of the United States Department of Transportation. The concept is still in the design phase. The main activities of this project will include installing raised crossings and intersections at the eight main entry points of the New Haven Green along Church, College, Chapel, and Elm Streets. Reviewed how the concepts and design does not occur in a vacuum, as they work with community partners. Also, they work with city departments, e.g., Public Works and Fire Department to ensure there is space for refuse vehicles and fire trucks.

In response to Alder Festa, Ms. Henning discussed how there will be bump outs and larger areas to plant to help restore the area to a more historical nature. Temple Street will be taken down to one lane with parking, and there would be no curbs on both sides of Temple to help the flow of pedestrian traffic across Temple.

CAO McCarthy confirmed that all federal funds have the possibility to be influx with the current federal political climate. DCA Bombero confirmed the funding has been allocated for this work, but the city is not under contract for the funds. They spoke with their contacts yesterday, who confirmed it was important the city go under contract as soon as possible.

In response to Alder Marx, CAO McCarthy reviewed how they will be working with community partners including the churches and alders, as the phases are planned. DCA Bombero reviewed how raised walkways would not need further approval, but if they make changes, that would affect the flow of traffic like moving to a one lane would require approval of the Traffic Authority but not the Board of Alders.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, CAO McCarthy reviewed how they will be engaging with the community as they work on each phase. Ms. Henning reviewed how long-term improvements will include over all improvements to the bus routes including shorter walks for users and the ability for some buses to change the lights, so they do not have to wait as long. The community engagement regarding the buses will start later this year in the fall, possibly September.

CAO McCarthy discussed how the intent is to keep the Green a safe, user-friendly area, not just for people around the Green but to encourage other people to visit the Green. Ms. Henning discussed how this design will create more space to hold activities like food trucks, etc.

In response to Alder Flores, Ms. Henning confirmed it would be interesting to have additional data regarding how raised sidewalks affect pedestrian safety.

In response to Alder Festa, DCA Bombero discussed how parking would still be allowed on Temple Street on Sundays before 1 pm to be used by the churches, as it is now. Any changes to this established practice would need to go before the Traffic Authority.

Attorney Carolyn Kone, Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman LLP, representing Center Church and United Church on the Green; Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, Center Church on the Green; Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray, Jr., United Church on the Green; Beka Sturgis; and Michael Widemouth, Reed

Hilderbrand LLC Landscape Architecture spoke in support of receiving this grant but shared concerns regarding safety and parking and how this initial concept will affect the churches on the Green.

Rev. Dr. Cleere spoke about how they were invited to the December 10th meeting, eight days before, on December 2nd, which was during Advent, one of the busiest times for churches. Confirmed they have met in the mayor's office three times following this initial meeting.

Ms. Sturgis went through the presentation regarding the concerns of the current concept from Reed Hilderbrand and Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman LLP. This presentation is on file in the Office of Legislative Services. Discussed how one of the first acts of the alders in the newly incorporated New Haven was to create Temple Street as an open public street, not a path. Reviewed the churches' operational needs, which includes: protecting the Green as the National Historic Landmark, 24/7 public vehicular access, 24/7 vehicle parking and drop-off on the church apron (ADA), Sunday street parking, regular 24/7 pedestrian and vehicular through-traffic for visibility and security, signalization of both ends of Temple Street for pedestrian and vehicular safety for staff and parishioners, security features (bollards, etc.) for ram protection, sufficient clearances for large logistical vehicles for church events, and required clearances for emergency access.

Rev. Dr. Ray, Jr. spoke about how the current population on the Green find safety and community there. Discussed how the importance of not making them a nuisance population, and how the current design would negatively affect them.

Mr. Widemouth spoke of the importance of keeping the significance of the Green for the future.

In response to Alder Marx, Attorney Kone reviewed how the Traffic Commission goes before the Police Commission, and there is no public hearing. Discussed how going from three-ways to one lane is a discontinuance, which should come before the Board of Alders. However, her understanding is that it is not the administration's plan to bring it back before for the Board of Alders.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Ms. Sturgis confirmed they are open to Temple Street moving to one lane if it is wide enough to support larger vehicles, like fire trucks and emergency vehicles.

Fire Chief John Alston and Assistant Fire Chief Daniel Hoffman discussed how they have a process of meeting with the city staff and the Police Commission. Reviewed how they have special apparatuses to help the city's fire trucks navigate narrow streets. Discussed how they are a part of the conceptional design process. AFC Hoffman confirmed engineering has fire truck specifications. With the current design, there is plenty of room for the city's fire trucks to turn on the newly envisioned Temple Street.

In response to Alder Marx, FC Alston and AFC Hoffman discussed how they are not concerned about a line of traffic on a one-way Temple Street as they have lights and sirens.

In response to Alder Hogan, FC Alston reviewed how raised sidewalks can cause concerns regarding driving fire trucks over them. Discussed how they work with engineering to address those concerns. Confirmed that at present all concerns regarding raised sidewalks have been addressed. Reviewed how the Fire Department has contingencies for the entire city, written by AFC Hoffman.

In response to Alder Singh, AFC Hoffman reviewed how the Fire Department's response time is better than the Police Department's response time. However, at the Green the police maintain a presence, which means, they can start helping to clear the traffic before the Fire Department arrives.

In response to Alder Festa, CAO McCarthy and DCA Bombero advised they would need to complete research regarding if this project/design will need to come back to the Board of Alders.

Ms. Henning confirmed there will still be signals at the corner of Chapel Street and Temple Street and Elm Street and Temple Street. They are not sure what the signals will look like, as they will depend on the final design.

In response to Alder Marx, CAO McCarthy confirmed they do not have details on the specific deadline. Ms. Henning expressed concerns regarding whether with the current political climate the funds will remain available if not contracted soon.

In response to Alder Hogan, CAO McCarthy confirmed their intention is to continue to work with the churches. DCA Bombero reviewed how they are working with 4-6 different constituent groups at any given time, including the Historic District Commission and are continuing to work to gather feedback. CAO McCarthy reviewed how the groups include The Proprietors of the Green, people that use Green, downtown businesses, etc.

Channing Harris, Board Member of New Haven Preservation Trust, 922 State Street, spoke of the importance of maintaining the historical character of the New Haven Green. Read a letter on the record from Rona Johnston, President of the New Haven Preservation Trust Board. This written letter is on file in the Office of Legislative Services. The Trust supports the use of this proposed funding to somewhat restrict vehicular traffic... and encourage the city to ensure no damage is done to the character-defining and iconic elms and other trees on of the Green.

Christopher Wigren, 360 Bellevue Road, discussed how the process has been confusing and difficult to follow. He has seen two designs there were not available on the city's website and found all the designs difficult to understand.

David Agosta, 431 Orange Street, spoke in support of the city accepting this funding, so improvements can be made to the Green to make it ADA compliant. Spoke to the importance of accepting the cake and arguing about the icing later.

David Newton, 428 Humphrey Street, a proprietor of the Green, spoke in support of the city accepting this funding. In response to Alder Festa, Mr. Newton confirmed he has felt the process has been easy to participate in and follow.

Billy Bromage, U-Act, 49 West Rock Avenue, spoke of the concerns of the homeless population that use the Green and protect their access to the safety and community the Green provides. Currently, there is no water access on the Green. Acknowledged that City Hall is open for people to use the bathroom but spoke about how people some people do not feel comfortable going into government buildings. Also, he does not know of any of the homeless population, who have been asked for feedback regarding the conceptional design.

Chris Ozyck, 603 Quinnipiac Avenue, spoke of the importance of open civic engagement and hiring urban design company with aldermanic oversight.

Anstress Farwell, New Haven Urban Design League, 59 Elm Street, spoke of the importance of having an inclusive and open public planning process for designing the Green's future use is needed. Reviewed the effect of moving the bus stops off Temple Street. This written testimony is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 3, seconded by Alder Amy Marx. All the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

4. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING SOLAR POWER PURCHASE AND LEASE AGREEMENTS.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters: Steven Winter, Executive Director of Climate and Sustainability; and Ryan Linares, Vice President at Greenskies Clean Energy

Director Winter and VP Linares presented this item detailing how the installing of these solar panels creates a dual use of these parking lots while generating revenue of the city by leasing these spaces to Greenskies. The expected revenue is \$120,000 annually. This presentation is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

In response to Alder Festa, VP Linares discussed the program that was used and how it can be used virtual to offset power use. Reviewed how it was determined that buildings near these solar panel installations do not use enough electricity to make it advantageous to use electricity generated by these solar panels. Confirmed the direct benefit to residents is the revenue generated by the city.

Director Winter confirmed that Hill House is already net metering with the current solar panels on site. Reviewed how at the golf course, there will be a lot of availability for net metering, as the entire building there is electric, even the kitchen, and they are moving to electric golf

courses.

In response to Alder Hogan, VP Linares reviewed the difference from kilo watt hours used at residential homes and mega watt hours used for commercial projects like this one. Confirmed they must sell to United Illuminating because they own the grid in New Haven.

In response to Alder Festa, Director Winter confirmed they do not have the final numbers because they are still working out the details regarding the golf course.

VP Linares confirmed the lease is for twenty (20) years. They need the real estate lease agreement to match the timeframe they are obligated to sell power to United Illuminating. Reviewed how the amount that Greenskies collects each year from United Illuminating decreases because the solar panels degrade over time, so they try to keep the lease payments the same.

In response to Alder Marx, VP Linares confirmed that Greenskies is responsible for installation, removal at the end of the lease, and any damage caused.

Director Winter confirmed that he believes the factor as the cost of removing the trees currently is being used as part of City Plan's site plan review process.

In response to Alder Festa, VP Linares confirmed if they were to include lease payment increases into the contract with the city, they would need to start the lease payments out at a much lower amount for the first ten, eleven years.

In response to Alder Hogan, VP Linares reviewed how even if technology improves, they cannot increase their output due to the contract with United Illuminating.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 4, seconded by Alder Amy Marx. All the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

□ WORKSHOP OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM VEO, THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, TRAFFIC, & PARKING, AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY REGARDING RESIDENT COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE ROLLOUT OF THE ELECTRIC SCOOTERS.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters: Sandeep Aysola, Director of Transportation, Traffic, and Parking;
Steven Winter, Executive Director of Climate and Sustainability;
Jeff Hoover, Director of Government Partnerships, via Zoom;
Dimitris Koutoumbas, Traffic Safety Engineer; and
Roberta King, Operations Manager at VEO

Director Winter discussed how the promises made at the VEO contract approval City Service and Environmental Policy meeting have not been met. Confirmed how they will go through the issues starting with underage drivers. Reviewed how they have over 5,000 trips, and they understand that many of those trips have been made by underage drivers.

Director Aysola spoke about how they need to take ownership.

Director Hoover reviewed the use of the geofences, which limit where the riders can drive the scooters. Discussed how even a foot of drift for the geofencing could mean the scooter stops in a traffic lane. It takes time to ensure these geofences are mapped out properly to ensure rider safety.

In response to Alder Marx, Director Hoover confirmed there is the ability to stop vehicles on sidewalks. Discussed how they are careful not to stop them within one to two feet of end of the sidewalk. Shortly after implementation of the scooters in New Haven, VEO set up a wallet within their app where riders could deposit funds and spend them down. Once the funds are used, the scooter would stop. After this was established, they realized the issues it was causing in New Haven regarding having the scooters stopping outside of their designated parking zones. Confirmed scooters are picked up within eight hours unless it is an ADA complaint or left on private property, which are addressed more quickly.

Director Aysola discussed how in the beginning many people were not returning the scooters to the parking corrals. They have been adding more parking corrals from the initial forty-six that they started with in May. Buildings can cause interference to the app determining the correct zone, which means sometimes riders are still being charged even when they correct return the scooter to the correct parking corral.

In response to Alder Festa, Director Aysola confirmed they are constantly updating the parking corrals. Discussed the amount of time city staff and he is spending on these issues. The city team is doing the best they can giving the resources they have to make the scooters work for everyone. At this point, they are not going to complete any additional scaling of the scooters. City staff is having VEO ban bad actors. The city is holding both bad actors and VEO responsible.

Director Winter discussed how there are residents with monthly memberships, who are using the scooters to commute, so there is a real benefit to this program.

Director Aysola reviewed how it is possible to report bad actors even without the scooter number. If someone reports the location and time, it is enough to ban the bad actors.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Director Hoover reviewed how they have changed how the wallet works, so it allows the riders time to return the scooters to the closest parking corral. If the rider does not return the scooter to a designated space, the rider is charged unless the app allows them to end the trip. VEO has been receiving complaints that riders have been allowed to end their rides up to fifteen (15) meters away from a designated parking

corral.

Director Aysola discussed how they want all sidewalks to be a slow ride zones but trees and buildings in downtown affect the ability of the app to tell where the rider is riding.

In response to Alder Flores, Director Aysola confirmed it was a very difficult question to answer regarding when the geofencing would be 99% implemented. The city cannot scale this project without showing improvement. The city and VEO has been making improvements including implementing ID requirements and using the enforcement mechanism.

Ms. King spoke about the issues they are facing including initially not starting with enough staff to monitor New Haven due the amount of ridership in New Haven and have increased staff in New Haven to ten employees. New Haven scooters have ended up as far away as Bridgeport.

Director Winter reviewed how scooters have been limited to 4 MPH in some areas, and they are trying to reduce the number of groups using VEO scooters.

In response to Alder Festa, Director Aysola confirmed that charging riders an additional amount for not returning the scooters to designated parking spots is working. City staff wants this program to be sustainable and successful.

In response to Alder Singh, Director Aysola discussed how they are not expanding the program until nuisances are addressed.

COMMITTEE ACTION

No committee action.

Alder Kampton Singh moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder Gary Hogan. The motion was unanimously approved at 9:31 p.m.

Alder Kampton Singh moved to adjourn, seconded by Alder Amy Marx. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourned: 11:03 p.m.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed on the Board of Alders' YouTube channel here: <https://youtube.com/@boardofalders8363>.

Respectfully submitted,
Misty Maza, J.D., Legislative Aide II